

Free Money for Career and Technical Training or College for Current or Former Foster Youth



Are you a current or former foster youth?

Do you want to get career and technical training or go to college? Then, read on—because a Chafee Grant is free money that can help you reach your educational goals.



Got questions? We've got answers.

What is a California Chafee Grant?

The California Chafee Grant Program gives free money to **current or former foster youth** to use for career and technical training or college courses. You don't have to pay this money back and you can use it for things like child care, transportation and rent. The Chafee Grant Program, also known as the Education and Training Voucher (ETV), is a federally funded program and is subject to availability of federal funds each year.

How do I qualify?

To qualify, you must:

- ◆ be eligible, or have been eligible, for foster care between your 16th and 18th birthday,
- ◆ not have reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1 of the award year

What do I need to apply?

You must be enrolled in:

- ◆ an eligible career or technical school or college
- ◆ a course of study at least half time
- ◆ a course of study that is at least one year long
- ◆ and maintain satisfactory academic progress -get good grades.

How do I apply?

File two forms:

- ◆ *Free Application for Federal Student Aid*, or FAFSA. File online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or get a paper form from your school. (Undocumented students may contact the Commission for further instructions.)
- ◆ *California Chafee Grant Program Application*, Submit a paper copy or an online application to the Commission.

What if I am undocumented?

You may be eligible to apply. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact the Commission for further assistance.

What happens after I apply?

- ◆ The Commission will review your award year FAFSA and your Chafee Grant Application.
- ◆ Then the California Department of Social Services will verify your Independent Living Program (ILP) status.
- ◆ Your school financial aid office will determine your financial aid eligibility.
- ◆ Once all of the above is completed, the Commission will send you a letter notifying you of your award status.

How will I get the grant?

Your grant will be sent to the career and technical school or college where you are enrolled. Talk to your school's financial aid advisor about how the school will distribute the grant.

How do I renew my Chafee Grant?

It's easy! All you need to do is complete the FAFSA for the award year. Renewal students do not need to submit another Chafee Grant application for each award year. The Commission will contact the Financial Aid Office of your career and technical school or college to verify you are enrolled at least half-time, you are maintaining satisfactory academic progress and you have financial aid need.

What kinds of schools or colleges can I attend in California?

You can attend participating campuses of the:

- ◆ California Community Colleges
- ◆ California State University
- ◆ Career and technical schools
- ◆ Independent colleges
- ◆ Private colleges
- ◆ University of California

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The California Chafee Grant Program

Can I attend a school or college outside California?

Yes, you can attend the same types of schools or colleges as listed in "What kinds of schools or colleges can I attend in California" as long as they meet certain criteria.

If you have a question regarding a college, contact the Commission. (See next column)

Could I lose California Chafee Grant benefits?

Yes, if your enrollment falls below half-time in the term(s) awarded, or if you fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Can others help me learn about Chafee Grants for current or former foster youth?

Yes, you can contact your:

- ◆ college counselor
- ◆ college financial aid office
- ◆ county/collegeILP Coordinator
- ◆ One-Stop Career Centers
- ◆ social worker/probation officer
- ◆ www.chafee.csac.ca.gov

How can I contact the Commission?

If you have questions regarding the California Chafee Grant Program:



Visit the Commission's Chafee Grant Web site at: www.chafee.csac.ca.gov.



Email your questions to the Commission at: studentsupport@csac.ca.gov.
(In the email subject line enter: Attn: Chafee)



Call the Commission at:
1-888-224-7268 Monday through Friday from
8:00 a.m. to 4:55 p.m.



Write the Commission, *or mail your application to:*
California Student Aid Commission
Specialized Programs
Attn: California Chafee Grant Program
P.O. Box 419029
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029

Let's Keep in Touch-

Make sure you contact us whenever there are changes in your:

- ◆ Email addresss
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Name
- ◆ Mailing address
- ◆ School of attendance
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Name
- ◆ Social Security number (SSN)
- ◆ Telephone number



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